Süstomer No.: 26308 <u>Patent</u>

SEP 2 3 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Gaiser et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 9222.17412-CIP 2

Serial No.:

10/017,906

Examiner: L. Thanh

Filed:

14 December 2001

Group Art Unit: 3763

Title:

Systems and Methods Employing a Guidewire for Positioning and Stabilizing

External Instruments Deployed within the Body

AMENDMENT A

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed March 19, 2004.

An automatic three month extension of time to respond, up to and including September 19, 2004 (which fell on a Sunday), is respectfully requested. The requisite fee accompanies this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows:

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